

tions in other features; so that while the specimens may be somewhat arbitrarily divided into series on general size, or on the form of the bill, the important variations in other features are not correlated with them but present all sorts of combinations of characters. Indeed, division on either size alone or color alone, or exclusively on the form of the bill, cannot be made satisfactorily, since there is no point at which a separation can be made."

Part I of Mr. Allen's paper is devoted to a general discussion of individual variation, with special reference, of course, to the genus *Elanina* and the Chapada specimens in particular. Part II consists of a review of the species and subspecies, based on the material examined, the "*E. pagana-albiceps* group" receiving most attention. Of *E. pagana* several sub-species are recognized: *E. pagana* (Licht.) proper from Eastern South America, north to Trinidad; *E. pagana subpagana* from Central America and Mexico; *E. pagana martinica* (Linn.) from the Antilles and Cozumel, to which Mr. Allen refers *E. cinerascens* Ridgw. from Old Providence; and *E. pagana albiceps* (D'Orb. & Lafr.) from "the Andean region, from Colombia and Ecuador southward, including Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, the extreme southern part of Brazil, and the region thence southward to the straits of Magellan." Regarding the Antillean form, Mr. Allen notes that "birds from different islands present much variation," and that "it is probable that large series from different islands, when compared, will be found to present slight average differences, as in case of other birds of similar distribution"; but he adds that at present lack of material renders an attempt to discriminate such forms impracticable. We trust the necessary material may soon be placed in Mr. Allen's hands, in order that he may be able to complete the work which he has so ably begun.—R. R.

Allen on the Maximilian Types of South American Birds.—In a paper of 68 pages, Mr. Allen has given a complete list of the Maximilian types of South American birds in the Museum of Natural History, New York City,* the names of Maximilian's new (actual or supposed) species being cited under their equivalent current names, the order of arrangement being that of Sclater and Salvin's 'Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium.' The catalogue has to do with "only the South American birds, and more especially with the types of the species described as new by the Prince in his 'Reise nach Brasilien' and 'Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte von Brasilien,'" in which works "about 160 species were described as new, of which about three fourths are still represented in the Maximilian Collection by the original or 'type' specimens." Altogether about 183 Maximilian names are discussed, the list including others beside the species which he described as new. The whole number are arranged, at the end of the paper (pp. 273-276), in a most convenient and useful 'Con-

* On the Maximilian Types of South American Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, No. 3. Article XIX, December, 1889, pp. 209-267.

cordance and Index,' "in the order in which they stand in his 'Beiträge,' with a reference to the volume and page of the 'Reise' or 'Beiträge' where they were first described," while "in the second column is given the equivalent name under which they are treated in the present paper, the figures at the extreme right referring to the page where the species is considered."

The paper is an extremely important one, and in its preparation the author has performed a good work, for which students of South American ornithology will be grateful.—R. R.

Dionne's Catalogue of the Birds of Quebec.*—The writer modestly expresses a hope that his work will be of some use as a guide to the young ornithologists of Quebec. This is evidently its chief purpose, and is one that cannot fail to be amply fulfilled. The Catalogue follows the classification and nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List, and gives also—as an aid in reference to earlier writers—the names and numbers borne by each species in the check-lists of Baird, Cones, and Ridgway. Following this comes a generalized statement of the bird's distribution, adapted from the A. O. U. Check-List, together with information as to its occurrence, abundance, times of appearance, etc., in the Province of Quebec. Of the 273 species and subspecies recorded, the following seem noteworthy: *Megalestris skua*, *Larus brachyrhynchus*, *Puffinus cinereus*, *Anas strepera*, *Ardea herodias*, *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, *Pica pica hudsonica*, *Ammodramus caudacutus subvirgatus*, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, *Piranga rubra*. It is to be regretted that in recording rarities Mr. Dionne does not always give full particulars and, in some of these cases, that the specimens were not identified by some ornithologist of unquestionable authority.

The author justly regrets the scantiness of the data at his command, and, doubtless, more field work in his own neighborhood would have led him to change some statements, especially as to the abundance of certain species. Nevertheless he gives us much valuable information, and a book that promises to serve so well the purpose for which it was written may well be spared too searching criticism.—C. F. B.

Proceedings of the Linnæan Society.†—The Linnæan Society has recently issued a brief 'abstract' of its Proceedings for the year ending March 7, 1890. "A large proportion of the papers read before the Society have been published in 'The Auk,' 'Forest and Stream,' and the 'Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History,'" and are only mentioned here. The bulk of the abstract is made up of brief items, chiefly ornithological, and many of them of much importance. The only paper of any

* Catalogue | des | Oiseaux | de la Province de Québec | avec des Notes sur leur Distribution Géographique | par | C. E. Dionne | [cut] | Québec | des Presses à Vapeur de J. Dussault, | Port Dauphin | 1889. 8vo. pp. 119.

† Abstract | of the Proceedings of the | Linnæan Society | of | New York | for the Year ending March 7, 1890. 8vo. pp. 10.